

From: Nick McKnight
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 7:11am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

In regard to the specifics of the proposed final judgement, Section III.J.2.c would allow Microsoft to condition licensing of security-related APIs based on their right to certify the 'authenticity and viability' of a potential licensee's business. This right could be used by Microsoft to block progress in many free software projects aimed at interoperability. Active third-party involvement would be needed to insure equitable standards in the licensing of security-related APIs.

I feel the comments offered at <http://www.kegel.com/remedy/letter.html> should also be considered. Based on his comments at <http://slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=01/12/17/1235220&mode=thread> I believe Stephen Satchell should be considered for appointment to the proposed three-person Technical Committee.

With greater dependence on digital infrastructure, the availability of software that is both secure and open to innovation is a critical need. I believe free software such as GNU/Linux can help fulfill this need and should be encouraged.

Sincerely,

Nick McKnight, Lawrenceville, GA; Software Engineer